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## Reports

### Item#1

Post-9/11 Evolution of the United States' Defining of the Terrorist Threat from Al Qaeda. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. John W. Rollins. January 20, 2015.

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda-related entities have increased in number and become more diffuse; with these changes there has been an evolution in how the United States defines the terrorist threat. How the threat has evolved could influence consideration of new authorities and policies in the 114th Congress.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/IN10214.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages, 57.29 KB].

### Item#2

After Charlie Hebdo, Balancing Press Freedom and Respect for Religion. Pew Research Center. Jeffrey Gottfried and Michale Barthel. January 28, 2015.

About three-in-four Americans (76%) have heard at least a little about the attack on the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, according to the poll, conducted January 22-25 among 1,003 adults. Of these, a majority (60%) says that it was okay for Charlie Hebdo to have published cartoons that depict the Prophet Muhammad, but nearly three-in-ten (28%) do not support the magazine's decision to publish this material – saying it was not okay.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.journalism.org/files/2015/01/2015.01.28\\_CharlieHebdo\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.journalism.org/files/2015/01/2015.01.28_CharlieHebdo_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages, 441.14 KB].

### Item#3

Germany's Nationalist Movement Rides on a Wave of Islamophobia. YaleGlobal. Frank Griffel. January 29, 2015.

Nationalists in Germany are making Islamophobia a scapegoat for troubles, with protests in Dresden and support spreading throughout the country. Political, business and cultural leaders are determined to block parties with xenophobic rhetoric, explains Frank Griffel. Adolf Hitler published Mein Kampf in 1925, exposing his ideology and anti-Semitism; in 1933, he was the German chancellor. "German culture prides itself on having stepped out of the shadow of Nazi Germany," writes Griffel. "Germans today, both in the former West and the East, despise all too blatant manifestations of nationalism and patriotism and, 70 years after the Nazis' fall, remain wary that a new kind of Nazism might creep into its political culture." He analyzes the movement known by its acronym PEGIDA, which means "Patriotic Europeans who protest Islamization of the West" and points to the dilemmas for leaders who must address the resentment of immigrants masked as security concerns along with the changing culture and slowing economic growth. Elsewhere in Europe, right-wing parties with xenophobic views have made gains in recent elections.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/germany%E2%80%99s-nationalist-movement-rides-wave-islamophobia> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

Empowering Pakistan's Civil Society to Counter Global Violent Extremism. Brookings Institute. Hedieh Mirahmadi et al. January 2015.

Pakistan is one of the most strategically important countries for the United States and the Muslim world, particularly in regards to countering violent extremism (CVE). In lieu of a robust government-led strategy, Pakistan's civil society has had to take the lead in CVE. The paper analyzes existing initiatives and their capacities to counter extremism, identifies challenges in program implementation, and develops recommendations for national and provincial strategies to empower civil society as a bulwark against extremism.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2015/01/us%20islamic%20world%20forum%20publications/empowering%20pakistans%20civil%20society%20to%20counter%20violent%20extremism%20english.pdf> [PDF format, 35 pages, 500 KB].

#### Item#5

The Second Modi-Obama Summit: Building the India-U.S. Partnership. Brookings Institution. January 20, 2015.

Following their first summit in September 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an unprecedented gesture, invited President Barack Obama to be the chief guest at India's 66th Republic Day, the first time an American president has been invited in this capacity. With his acceptance of this invitation, President Obama will become the first U.S. president to visit India twice during his time in office. This second summit within six months offers a further opportunity to deepen the India-U.S. relationship.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2015/01/20%20building%20the%20india%20us%20partnership/the%20second%20modi%20obama%20summit%20briefing%20book.pdf> [PDF format, 74 pages, 744 KB].

#### Item#6

Most Support Stronger U.S. Ties With Cuba. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. January 16, 2015.

Fully 63% of Americans approve of the Obama administration's decision last month to re-establish diplomatic ties with Cuba after more than 50 years. And there is equally broad support for going further and ending the decades-long U.S. trade embargo against Cuba (66% favor this). Yet there is broad public skepticism that a thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations will lead to greater democracy in Cuba. Only about a third (32%) say they think Cuba will become more democratic over the next several years, while 60% say it will be about the same as it is now.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/01/1-15-15-Cuba-release.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages, 351.91 KB].

#### Item#7

ROK-U.S. Civil Nuclear and Nonproliferation Collaboration in Third Countries. Brookings Institution. Fred F. McGoldrick et al. January 2015.

The United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) have enjoyed a lengthy and fruitful bilateral cooperative relationship in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in promoting mutual nuclear nonproliferation objectives. The report assesses the prospects for further ROK-U.S. collaboration on civil nuclear projects and nuclear nonproliferation, safety and security—in particular, those efforts which would involve third countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2015/01/15%20korea%20us%20civil%20nuclear%20nonproliferation%20collaboration%20einhorn/rok%20us%20civil%20nuclear%20and%20nonproliferation%20collaboration%20in%20third%20countries.pdf> [PDF format, 120 pages, 756 KB].

#### Item#8

Yemen: Background and U.S. Relations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jeremy M. Sharp. January 21, 2015.

The report provides an overview and analysis of U.S.-Yemeni relations amidst evolving political change in Yemeni leadership, ongoing U.S. counterterrorism operations against Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) operatives in Yemen's hinterlands, and international efforts to bolster the country's stability despite an array of daunting socio-economic problems. Along with determining how best to counter terrorist threats emanating from Yemen, Congress and U.S. policy makers also may consider the priority level and resources that should be accorded to attempts to stabilize Yemen and to establish and maintain strong bilateral relations with Yemeni leaders.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL34170.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages, 1.08 MB].

#### Item#9

New Anchors for U.S.-Egypt Relations: Looking to the Future and Learning from the Past 4 Years After Egypt's Revolution. Center for American Progress. Brian Katulis and Mokhtar Awad. January 23, 2015.

In the past year, the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, or ISIS, and the nuclear negotiations with Iran have dominated U.S. policy toward the Middle East. But Egypt, as the most populous Arab country, remains a central test in the broader battle to achieve stability and progress in the region. Four years after the start of the Arab uprisings, Egypt continues to face many of the same challenges that sparked the initial protests. The United States and Egypt should try to work together to build a set of new anchors for progress and stability at this turbulent time of transition in the Middle East, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/EgyptPolicy-report1.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages, 409.53 KB].

#### Item#10

Options and Issues Regarding Marijuana Legalization. RAND Corporation. Jonathan P. Caulkins et al. January 21, 2015.

Marijuana legalization is a controversial and multifaceted issue that is now the subject of serious debate. Since 2012, four U.S. states have passed ballot initiatives to remove prohibition and legalize a for-profit commercial marijuana industry. In December 2013, Uruguay became the first country to experiment with legalization nationwide; the Netherlands tolerates only retail sales and does not allow commercial production. Voters in Washington, D.C., recently took the more limited step of passing an initiative to legalize home production and personal possession. All of these moves were unprecedented.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR800/RR864/RAND\\_RR864.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR800/RR864/RAND_RR864.pdf) [PDF format, 218 pages, 0.2 MB].

#### Item#11

Overview and Issues for Implementation of the Federal Cloud Computing Initiative: Implications for Federal Information Technology Reform Management. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Patricia Moloney Figliola and Eric A. Fischer. January 20, 2015.

Cloud computing is a new name for an old concept: the delivery of computing services from a remote location, analogous to the way electricity, water, and other utilities are provided to most customers. Cloud computing services are delivered through a network, usually the Internet. In December 2010, the U.S. Chief Information Officer (CIO) released “A 25-Point Implementation Plan to Reform Federal IT Management” as part of a comprehensive effort to increase the operational efficiency of federal technology assets. One element of the 25-Point Plan is for agencies to shift to a “Cloud First” policy, which is being implemented through the Federal Cloud Computing Strategy. The Cloud First policy means that federal agencies must (1) implement cloud-based solutions whenever a secure, reliable, and cost-effective cloud option exists; and (2) begin reevaluating and modifying their individual IT budget strategies to include cloud computing. However, there are challenges facing agencies as they make this shift.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42887.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages, 407.63 KB].

#### Item#12

The Increasingly Unequal States of America: Income Inequality by State, 1917 to 2012. Economic Policy Institute. Estelle Sommeiller and Mark Price. January 26, 2015.

Economic inequality is, at long last, commanding attention from policymakers, the media, and everyday citizens. There is growing recognition that there’s a need for an inclusive economy that works for everyone, not just for those at the top. The report uses the latest available data to examine how the top 1 percent in each state have fared over 1917–2012, with an emphasis on trends over 1928–2012. The analysis finds that all 50 states have experienced widening income inequality in recent decades.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://s3.epi.org/files/2014/IncreasinglyUnequalStatesofAmerica1917to2012.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages, 561.13 KB].

#### Item#13

The Manufacturing Footprint and the Importance of U.S. Manufacturing Jobs. Economic Policy Institute. Robert E. Scott. January 22, 2015.

While U.S. manufacturing has been hit hard by nearly two decades of policy failures that have damaged its international competitiveness, it remains a vital part of the U.S. economy. The manufacturing sector employed 12 million workers in 2013, or about 8.8 percent of total U.S. employment. Manufacturing employs a higher share of workers without a college degree than the economy overall. On average, non-college-educated workers in manufacturing made 10.9 percent more than similar workers in the rest of the economy in 2012–2013. The report examines the role manufacturing plays in employment at the national, state, and congressional district levels, including the number of jobs manufacturing supports, the wages those jobs pay, and manufacturing's contribution to GDP.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://s3.epi.org/files/2015/bp388-manufacturing-footprint.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages, 342.16 KB].

#### Item#14

Evolving Patterns in Diversity. Urban Institute. Steven Martin et al. January 20, 2015.

From 2010 to 2030 the United States will become more racially and ethnically diverse, but demographic projections suggest the patterns of increasing diversity will vary widely across cities and regions. The study projects changes in the population shares across geographies for four major groups: Hispanics, non-Hispanic blacks, non-Hispanic whites, and non-Hispanic others. Though growing diversity across the U.S. will be welcome in many ways, it will also bring challenges to areas in which different groups increase in population share.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000066-Evolving-Patterns-in-Diversity.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 618.7 KB].

#### Item#15

2014: A Year of Temperature Records and Landmark Climate Findings. World Resources Institute. C. Forbes Tomkins and Christina DeConcini. January 2015.

The fact sheet offers an overview of key scientific takeaways from 2014, ranging from record-high temperatures to landmark findings related to climate change.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/2014\\_Temperature\\_Records\\_and\\_Landmark\\_Climate\\_Findings\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/2014_Temperature_Records_and_Landmark_Climate_Findings_fact_sheet.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages, 269.5 KB].